

MERSEYSIDE

UFO Bulletin

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UFO GLOSSARY - PART 2

UFO DOCUMENTARY

CHAOS AT COLORADO

LOCAL UFO REPORTS

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EDITORIAL

We are rational

This modest little Bulletin is one of the few publications in this field which does not seek to bludgeon its readers into the acceptance of the proposition that UFOs are spaceships from other planets.

Our attitude is rational. We do not believe anything about UFOs, except that the persistent reports and the more sober speculations concerning them are worthy of serious attention from the scientific community, and that any reasonably intelligent person with an open and enquiring mind can derive much interest and pleasure from studying the subject.

U F O G L O S S A R Y

Part 2 - H to Z

Hostility theory Term applied to speculation that the present UFO activity is the final phase of a plan by superior beings from other parts of the galaxy to take over the Earth and either enslave or annihilate its people.

Humanoid Entity, similar in appearance to a human being, reported by witnesses to emerge from landed UFOs.

Interplanetary theory The popular hypothesis that UFOs are spacecraft from other planets.

Invisible College Informal, international association of scientists interested in the UFO problem, led by U.S. Air Force UFO Consultant, Dr J. Allen Hynek. He called it the "Invisible College" because most of its members do not wish their names to be revealed.

Jellyfish Type of dome-shaped UFO, with brightly coloured streamers or beams of light underneath it, giving the appearance of an illuminated jellyfish.

Landing report Report of a landing of an unidentified flying object.

Ley An alignment of prehistoric points, such as stone circles, burial mounds, etc. Some researchers believe that there may be a connection between such alignments and the pattern of UFO activity.

Martian Inhabitant of the planet Mars. A term popularly applied to alleged occupants of UFOs.

Menzelism A firm belief that all UFO reports are explainable in terms of misinterpretations of natural phenomena or aircraft and that reports not explainable in this manner must be all hoaxes and delusions, together with a firm refusal seriously to consider other possibilities. This term derives from the name of the astrophysicist Dr Menzel who has for many years been noted for his attitude of total scepticism concerning UFOs.

Mother ship Large UFO, usually cigar-shaped, from which smaller craft are said to emerge. According to reports the mother ship usually remains at a fairly high altitude while the smaller craft fly about in various directions and eventually return to it.

NICAP National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. This organisation was founded in 1956, and has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Perhaps the world's best-known UFO organisation, its activities figure prominently in the UFO literature.

Operators (or "Occupants") Strange beings reported to emerge from landed UFOs. Descriptions vary, and attempts have been made to classify and correlate such reports. This aspect of the subject is very complex and opens up interesting lines of research and speculation. For example, many of the descriptions of alien entities given by witnesses appear to coincide with descriptions in folklore and mythology of fabulous beings such as goblins, gnomes, fauns, cyclops, etc.

Thus there are emerging two divergent attitudes to the problem. To some people such reports suggest that present-day UFO landing reports have a psychological explanation and are merely a modern resurgence of old myths and legends. To others these reports suggest that ancient myths and legends are distorted accounts of genuine encounters with alien beings, hence the similarities with modern UFO landing reports.

The idea that ancient legends concerning beings with superhuman powers may relate to actual visits by beings from other planets has been taken seriously by some scientists, such as Agrest and Sagan. However, such people are generally reluctant to admit that

modern reports may have the same explanation.

Orthoteny When studying UFO reports which occurred during the Great Wave of Autumn, 1954, centred on France, Aime Michel noted that when plotted on a map many reports on particular days appeared to lie on straight lines. To describe this phenomenon, he coined the term "orthoteny," derived from the Greek adjective orthotoneis, meaning "stretched in a straight line." Michel expounded his orthoteny theory in a book, translated into English under the title "Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery."

The original theory was to the effect that alignments of sightings revealed the pattern of UFO activity for a particular day and different sets of alignments appeared on different days. Later, the theory was extended to include the idea of permanent alignments, such as the Famous BAVIC line.

Sceptics argued that the straight lines were purely chance alignments and a number of mathematical studies of the topic were published in UFO magazines, with the result that many now accept, with reservations, that such alignments are generally due to chance.

Plantier's theory An hypothesis devised by a Lieutenant Plantier, which assumes an as yet unknown form of energy distributed throughout space in unlimited quantities. He further assumed that there exists a means of liberating this energy by transforming it into a different kind of energy, and that the liberation of this energy could result in a field of force which could be varied and directed at will. He thus envisaged a model interplanetary machine based on this idea and it was pointed out that its characteristic behaviour was similar to the described behaviour of UFOs.

Project Bluebook On January 15th, 1948, the United States Air Force was established as a separate branch of the U.S. military forces and thus acquired the responsibility for protecting the United States from all threats from the air. Thus the persistent reports of unidentified flying objects plainly became the responsibility of the Air Force. On January 22nd, 1948, Project Sign (sometimes referred to as "Project Saucer") was set up at Wright-Patterson Air Force base, near Dayton, Ohio. It was hoped that this project would soon discover the solution to the UFO mystery.

On February 11th, 1949, the operation was re-organised and renamed Project Grudge and investigations continued more quietly, after the open disagreements which attended the activities of Project Sign. Under Project Grudge attempts were made to persuade the public that flying saucers did not exist, but continuing UFO sightings and the resulting public clamour forced a further re-organisation and Project Bluebook started in March, 1952, and still continues on its eventful career. Details of its activities and public statements abound in the UFO literature.

Project Grudge See Project Bluebook.

Project Magnet UFO investigation set up by the Canadian Government in 1950 and closed down in 1954. The project was headed by the late Wilbert B. Smith.

Project Ozma This name was given to a project carried out at Green Bank, West Virginia, between April, 1959, and July, 1960, by Frank D. Drake and Otto Struve. The aim of the exercise was to use the observatory's radio telescope, coupled to equipment designed to filter out radio noise and to detect very weak signals, to listen for possible intelligent radio signals from other planetary systems. The frequency chosen for this search was 21 cm. -- the hydrogen emission wavelength. It was decided to aim the telescope in turn at two stars during the search. The ones chosen were Epsilon Eridani and Tau Ceti. No extraterrestrial signals were received and the experiment was abandoned in July, 1960, as the expensive equipment was required for other projects.

Project Saucer An unofficial name for Project Sign.

Project Sign See Project Bluebook.

Project Twinkle Project set up by the U.S. Air Force to attempt to obtain motion pictures of mysterious green fireballs seen over New Mexico, using cine-theodolites. The first sightings of these fireballs were reported in December, 1948. It was reported that this project was unsuccessful.

Psychic Projection theory 1. The idea that one person who believes he is seeing a UFO can influence others who are present, by suggestion, so that they also believe that they see it.

2. The idea that it is possible to project mental images in such a way that they are seen as apparently real objects by other persons. It is thus believed by some UFO enthusiasts that flying saucers and their crews are "thought-forms" projected by extra-terrestrial beings in order to inform us of their existence.

Saturn-shaped object UFO shaped somewhat like the planet Saturn. On January 16th, 1958, a series of photographs of such an object were taken from the deck of the Brazilian Navy ship Almirante Saldanha, off Trinidad Island. These pictures were widely published and this event is regarded as important in the UFO story because of the circumstances in which the pictures were taken and the fact that there had previously been a number of interesting sightings of such objects reported from South America.

Shaggy saucer story UFO report which is, or is considered to be, merely a joke or a hoax.

Sighting form Printed form containing questions on aspects of UFO sightings for completion by UFO witnesses. Most UFO groups devise their own forms, but many of them are based on the official U.S. Air Force form. (This form is reproduced as an appendix to the book, "Flying Saucers From Outer Space," by Donald E. Keyhoe.)

Significant report UFO report considered important by serious UFO researchers, as opposed to a UFO report which has achieved wide publicity merely because of favourable circumstances.

Silence Group U.S. Air Force officers and officials who are opposed to the release of official information concerning unexplained UFO reports.

Skywatch An exercise which consists, basically, of watching the sky in the hope of sighting any unidentified flying objects. Skywatches are organised by UFO organisations, sometimes on a national--or even international--scale. It is usual to choose a time and place considered favourable in the light of past experience and to have available suitable equipment to record anything unusual which may be seen.

Type classification of UFO reports UFO researcher, Dr Jaques Vallee has devised a system for classifying UFO reports, so that any report will fall into one, and only one, of the following five categories:

"Type I. They can be seen (or imagined, or perceived) as objects situated on the ground or close to the ground (at tree height).

Type II. They can display the behaviour observed at Vernon (large, cylindrical object from which smaller objects emerge) or, more generally, appear as huge cylindrical forms surrounded by cloud-like formations, often vertical. The latter behaviour defines a sub-class II-A, when descriptions of actual generation of secondary objects are called II-B.

Type III. They can be described as aerial forms hovering in the atmosphere, or following a path interrupted by a stationary point; a precise point will be defined on the ground from this discontinuity.

Type IV. They can be seen as objects crossing the sky without such interruption or discontinuity.

Type V. They can be distant objects seen as lights."

UFO Unidentified flying object.

Ufocal A locality which is a source of numerous UFO reports over a long period of time. (This word was coined by Dr J.Cleary-Baker, editor of BUFORA Journal.)

UFO detector Sensitive device designed to detect sudden changes in the local magnetic field. UFOs are said to be frequently surrounded by powerful magnetic fields. Thus, when such a device operates, it suggests that there is possibly a UFO in the vicinity. The simplest form of detector consists of a freely suspended magnet, which will complete an electrical circuit if it moves sufficiently, setting off a warning device, such as a buzzer or light. Such a device tends to be too sensitive to mechanical vibrations to be of very great value and more sophisticated detectors, which overcome this problem, have been produced.

UFO group Any organisation whose main purpose is the study of UFO reports.

Ufologist Person who studies UFO reports.

Ufology The study of UFO reports and associated topics.

Venusian Inhabitant of the planet Venus. Term often applied to benevolent spacemen which often feature in "contactee" stories.

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UFO Terminology

From the foregoing glossary it will be seen that many of the terms are useful and necessary in order to avoid tedious circumlocutions in writings on the subject of UFOs. Some of the terms, though, are vague or ambiguous and others are obviously frivolous.

A correspondent has suggested that the following terms, listed in our last issue, would not be generally used by serious UFO researchers:- Alternate realities, Benderism, Deltavolant, Fly-over, and Gee-whiz group. If any of our readers have any suggestions for terms to be added to or deleted from the glossary, or wish to improve on the definitions given, we would be pleased to hear from them.

U F O D O C U M E N T A R Y

On May 9th, (1968) BBC Television presented a documentary programme on UFOs narrated by Dr Stephen Black, a researcher in neuro-physiology. For this programme Dr Black chose only UFO witnesses he believed to be sincere.

He soon revealed the peculiar subjective aspects of UFO sightings. First was Captain Howard concerning the famous sighting made by himself, his crew and passengers from a BOAC airliner on June 29th, 1954. When Howard had told his story, Dr Black asked him how he felt at the time. Howard said that he felt "kindly disposed towards them." He said he discussed it with other members of his crew afterwards and they agreed that they felt "some sort of bond of affection between us and 'them.'" Captain Howard described it as a "very strange and powerful feeling."

Another fascinating interview was with Lonnie Zamora of Socorro, followed by a conversation between Dr Black and Dr Hynek. Both agreed that Zamora saw what he said he saw. Dr Hynek said that it was one of the most interesting cases he had come across.

There followed an interview with Joe Simonton (the Eagle River case) who claimed to have received four pancakes from spacemen in a

flying saucer in exchange for a jug of water. Dr Black said that Simonton was "not lying."

Then we were shown engineer Brian Winder lecturing to a joint meeting of the British Interplanetary Society and Royal Aeronautical Society, at Bristol, on the subject of his flying saucer model based on an atomic power source. The camera also showed us his audience, some listening attentively, others smirking.

We were shown Dr William Hartman, an astronomer who is responsible for ~~xxx~~ the investigation of all photographic evidence for the Condon Committee, attempting to duplicate the famous Heflin photographs. Hartman pointed out the difficulty of obtaining acceptable photographic evidence. If any particular photograph could be duplicated by faking, then this weakened the arguments in favour of the genuineness of that photograph. He compared the situation to the assassination of President Kennedy, for which event there were many eyewitnesses, photographs and physical evidence, such as bullets, etc. In spite of all this, people still argue as to exactly what happened and who really fired the shots and a number of books have been written expounding contradictory theories. Rex Heflin revealed that he was a keen model maker and Dr Black commented that it was quite possible to fake a photograph and then forget about it.

The most significant part of the programme was the discussion of the Betty and Barney Hill "abduction" story. Dr Benjamin Simon, the Boston psychiatrist who examined the Hills, said that he was at first very puzzled by the story. Both gave the same story under hypnosis and Betty described the alleged abduction in great detail. Dr Simon was baffled until he recognised the dreamlike quality of the story. In dreams such things can exist, be acceptable and not require a diagnosis of mental disorder. This led him to recall that Betty's original problem had been nightmarish dreams. It turned out that these dreams and the dreams which she had written down in 1961 (just after their UFO experience) were all the same. Dr Simon felt pretty convinced that the abduction part of the story, at least, was merely a dream.

Betty denied telling these dreams to Barney and Barney denied being told about them. However, Betty admitted telling the dreams to her supervisor and her sister and it finally emerged that Barney had been at home at the time she was talking about the dreams, so that he could have absorbed some of the details without realising it. A suggestion by Betty's supervisor that they might not be dreams but reality led to the complete repression of the whole thing, leading to the gap in memory. Dr Simon said, in answer to a question from Dr Black, that both of the Hills were deep trance hypnotic subjects.

Summing up, Dr Black said that a lot of apparent movement of lights in the sky might be due to a well-known mechanism in the brain which makes a flickering light in a darkened room appear to move. The eyeballs remain still; the movement is "all in the mind." Some scientists believe the rate of flicker to be critical and this rate has to be the same as an important brain wave rhythm---about 10 times a second. Stars sometimes twinkle at the rate of 10 times a second and the Hills' experience began with their attention being drawn to what appeared to be a star. However, stars never seem to move as much as UFOs are said to move.

Barney Hill had said that he did not believe in flying saucers, but Betty did, so to some extent suggestion was going on in their home. Both Hills are deep trance hypnotic subjects and such people are only 5% of the general population. Dr Black said that he wished to test as many convincing UFO witnesses as possible for hypnotisability. This was somewhat difficult to arrange, but only 6 deep trance UFO witnesses in a row would be necessary to prove statistically a connection between the two phenomena. So far, he had 5 such subjects and the odds against this being due to chance were 3,000,000 to 1 against. Dr Hynek agreed that this discovery was very interesting and required following up.

Dr Black said that deep trance subjects, so far as we know, do not hallucinate spontaneously. They need a hypnotist to suggest at least the beginnings of the delusion. He then asked: "Could flickering light, the way people react in groups and hypnosis all combine to explain UFOs?" He concluded that perhaps some, though

certainly not all sightings could be explained in this way. The Captain Howard sighting could not be explained as a delusion as such an explanation in this case would surely involve telepathy!

Chaos at Colorado

More details of the by now notorious troubles of the Condon Committee have recently been published. The May 14th, 1968, issue of the American "Look" magazine contains an article on the subject by John G. Fuller, entitled "Flying Saucer Fiasco."

It seems that the root of the trouble is the peculiar attitudes adopted by Condon and his project co-ordinator, Robert J. Low. One particular matter which caused a great row in the project was the discovery by a staff member, while looking through the files, of a memo written by Robert Low, entitled "Some Thoughts on the UFO Project." (1) In this memo Low said: "...Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by non-believers who, although they couldn't possibly prove a negative result, could and probably would add an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality to the observations. The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of nonbelievers trying their best to be objective, but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer. One way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomena, but rather of the people who do the observing--the psychology and sociology of persons and groups who report seeing UFOs. If the emphasis were put here, rather than on examination of the old question of the physical reality of the saucer, I think the scientific community would quickly get the message.

There is another reason, it seems to me, to do this. Except possibly in a field like optical meteorology, I can't imagine a paper coming out of the study that would be publishable in a prestigious physical science journal. I can quite easily imagine, however, that psychologists, sociologists and psychiatrists might well generate scholarly publications as a result of their investigations of the saucer observers.....It is premature to have much of an opinion, but I'm inclined to feel at this early stage that, if we set up the thing right and take pains to get the proper people involved and have success in presenting the image we want to present to the scientific community, we could carry the job off to our benefit. At least, it ought not be rejected out of hand."

Members of the Project were naturally very disturbed by the general tone of this memo and also by public speeches and statements made by Dr Condon which appeared to indicate that his attitude to the study of UFOs was not only biased, but downright frivolous. After a particularly hilarious speech on the "crackpot fringe" of ufology, delivered by Dr Condon at a scientific gathering on September 13th, 1967, Donald Keyhoe announced that NICAP would no longer supply the project with reports and information. A public statement by Keyhoe was published in "Look" alongside Fuller's article. The first paragraph reads: "At first, NICAP was dubious about an AF-financed project. After Dr Condon pledged a fair study, we briefed scientists, trained field teams, loaned verified reports by pilots, aerospace engineers and other capable observers. Later, news stories quoted Condon as strongly biased, rejecting all evidence. When we found that barely one half of one percent of NICAP's cases were investigated (and none by Condon himself), we stopped transmitting. Administrator Low's disturbing proposals and the firing of Drs Saunders and Levine led to our final break."

Whatever the outcome of the Colorado Project, it now seems unlikely that much weight will be attached to their findings by anyone with any knowledge of the subject. The misgivings expressed by experienced ufologists when the Project was announced appear to have been well justified.

Acknowledgement

1. We are grateful to Mr J.J.A.Hennessey, Chairman of European Subcommittee 1 of NICAF, for sending us extracts from Robert Low's memo.

Letter to the Editor

From: Dr J.CLEARY-BAKER Editor of BUFORA Journal

Dear Mr Harney,

Reference Lionel Beer's letter published on page 17 of your "Bulletin," March-April 1968 issue.

I must deny emphatically that I have ever stated a willingness ~~to~~ that BUFORA should "suffer fools gladly" for the sake of their subscriptions. I have often stated that I would NOT suffer them gladly, for this or any other reason. I recall that when Lionel was visiting me here last year I remarked that he shared my views on this issue, which observation he said he regarded as a compliment to him!

Otherwise, I agree with Lionel's comments on the subject of the Association. One dissident official trying to rock the boat hardly adds up to an administrative crisis within the Society. BUFORA was launched in its present form in 1964, since when it has been found necessary to expel only one member for activities prejudicial to its interests and to decline to renew the membership of one other individual. Hardly a record of tyranny, I think!

The sub-committee set up in connection with the National Advisory Council was not drafted to "investigate" anyone. Its object was simply to consider whether constitutional changes might be desirable in connection with the relationship of the Member-Societies to the Central Organisation. Yours sincerely, J.Cleary-Baker, Ph.D., 3 Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, Hants.

L O C A L U F O R E P O R T S

Moore, near Warrington, Lancashire. June 3rd, 1968 00.05 BST(app.)

The following report appeared in the Warrington Guardian on June 8th:-

It looks as if unidentified flying objects have returned to the Warrington area. Since the spate of sightings last November of fast moving, brightly coloured objects in the sky, all has been quiet - until Monday.

Then, minutes after midnight 21-year-old Mr Ruan Riley, of 123, Statham Avenue, Warrington, claims to have seen a "fiery-red object" flying between Runcorn and Moore. He was in Beechmore, Moore, and about to return home, when he saw the silent object.

Immediately he called some friends from a house nearby and they were equally mystified by the thing.

Said Ruan: "Clouds were high and when I first saw the object it was over towards Runcorn. It looked fairly small and then it came flashing downwards very fast towards Moore.

"It moved away and returned in a matter of a few seconds and when it re-appeared it seemed to be in three separate sections. Finally it disappeared into a tiny pin-prick of light."

Ruan - a maintenance and sheet-metal worker with Joseph Crosfield and Sons Ltd., Warrington, said "It did not look anything like an aircraft. In four years I have never seen any aircraft approaching Liverpool Airport, in that position near Moore."

(Credit: South Lincolnshire Unidentified Flying Object Study Group. Hon. Secretary - Mrs P.Barnes, 43 Gladstone Street, Bourne, Lincs.)

Liverpool

June 4th, 1968

16.30 BST

On June 5th, reports of a fireball appeared in the Liverpool Daily Post and Liverpool Echo. The report in the Echo reads as follows:-

The mystery of the great red fire ball seen in the sky over Wirral yesterday afternoon was still unsolved today.

Checks with air traffic control at Preston, Liverpool Airport, the Army training ground at Altcar and police and coastguards failed to identify the object which several people on Merseyside say they saw.

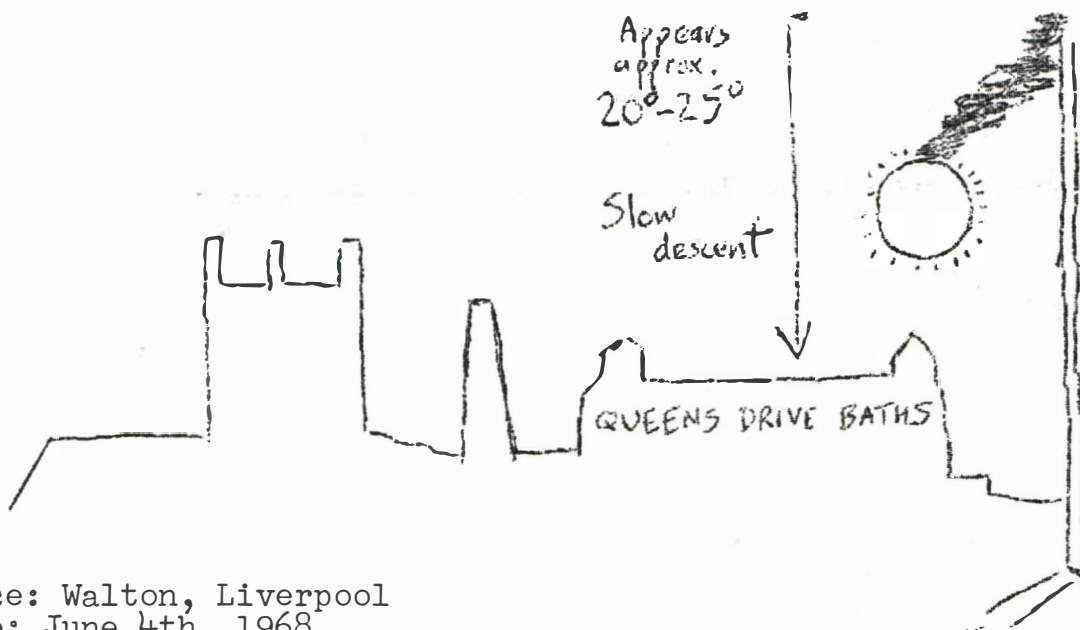
Reports said that the unidentified flying object, which left a trail of smoke, was falling in the sky around the Ellesmere Port and Birkenhead areas.

Mr George Griffith, 63-years-old Corporation caretaker, of 1b Walton Park Gardens, Walton, said his wife spotted the object and he rushed to look out of the window. "There it was. It seemed like a great ball of fire with smoke following it," he said.

Crane driver Mr Stanley Butcher of 37 Hooton Road, Aintree saw it as he was driving his car in Seaforth about 4.30 p.m.

"To me it looked like a rocket. I couldn't believe my eyes at first," he said.

So far, we have been unable to contact Mr Butcher, but John A. Rimmer has interviewed Mr and Mrs Griffith and his report follows:-



Place: Walton, Liverpool

Date: June 4th, 1968

Time: 1630 BST

Initial Report: Liverpool Echo and Liverpool Daily Post, June 5th

Weather conditions: Fine

The sighting was first made by Mrs Griffith, who was watching work on the Queens Drive/Rice Lane flyover. She described it as a 'fireball' about twice the apparent diameter of the sun, with a plume of thick black smoke coming from the top and being dispersed northwards by the wind. The fireball appeared suddenly in the sky at an elevation of about 20-25 degrees, and descended vertically quite slowly and steadily, until it was lost to view behind the roofline of Queens Drive Baths. The Griffiths' flat is on the second floor and is more or less level with the roof of the baths. The whole sighting lasted about seven or eight seconds, and all the time the ball was emitting a plume of smoke. Mrs Griffith described it as "like a setting sun, in colour."

As soon as Mrs Griffith saw the object she called her husband, who estimated its distance as 'several miles.' He also emphasised the slowness of descent, and the fact that no features were visible on the face of the disc.

Mr Griffith immediately phoned the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo. About 9.30 the same evening Ministry of Defence officials at Preston rang to take details, and promised to report back their findings. Mr Griffith was later contacted by a UFO 'research' group, but he took no action over this, being put off by the rather extremist nature of their communication.

Checking the alignment of the sighting on a map shows that the sighting was in a westerly direction, on a line with Wallasey, rather than Bromborough, as reported in the newspaper story.

Largest British UFO Organisation

In the Glossary, in our last issue, it was stated that BUFORA was Britain's largest UFO organisation. Mr William Herschell, of CONTACT U.K., has written to inform us that CONTACT is now the largest organisation, with a membership of well over 1,000, increasing by 100 a month, and 54 branches throughout the British Isles.

Radio Merseyside Interview

We have been asked by Mr Rex Bawden, News Editor of BBC Radio Merseyside, to point out that the interview with the Editor of this Bulletin, mentioned in our last issue, was broadcast-- in the "Mersey-go-Round" programme, at 6.05 p.m. on March 26th.

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